IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A computer-implemented method of initializing a simulation comprising:

accessing an attribute on a simulation model; and

responsive to the attribute, conditionally treating an unknown state of an input node on the simulation model as a known state.

2. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1 wherein conditionally treating an unknown state comprises:

when the attribute is set, evaluating an output node of the simulation model using the known state for the input node rather than the unknown state.

3. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 2 wherein evaluating an output node comprises detecting an X on the input node, and evaluating the output node as if a 0 was on the input node.

4. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 3 wherein the simulation model is a model of an inverter, and evaluating an output node comprises detecting an X on the input node, and evaluating the output node to a 1.

5. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 2 wherein evaluating an output node comprises detecting an X on the input node, and evaluating the output node as if a 1 was on the input node.

6. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 5 wherein the simulation model is a switch-level model of a transistor, and evaluating an output node comprises detecting an X on a gate node of the switch-level model of the transistor, and logically closing the switch-level model of the transistor.

Claims 7-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) An article having a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for performing a method of initializing a device model in a simulation, the method comprising:

accessing an attribute of the device model to ascertain a state of the attribute; and

responsive to the state of the attribute, conditionally treating an X on an input node of the device model as a value other than an X.

17. (Original) The article of claim 16 wherein the attribute is associated with the input node, the method further comprising:

accessing a second attribute of the device model, the second attribute being associated with a second input node; and

responsive to a state of the second attribute, conditionally treating an X on the second input node as a value other than an X.

18. (Original) The article of claim 16 wherein conditionally treating comprises:

conditionally treating an X on any input node of the device model as a value other than an X.

19. (Original) The article of claim 16 wherein the device model is a model of an inverter, the simulation is a switch-level simulation, and conditionally treating comprises:

when the attribute is set and an X is present on an input node to the model of the inverter, evaluating an output node of the model of the inverter to a 1.

20. (Original) The article of claim 16 wherein the device model is a model of an inverter, the simulation is a switch-level simulation, and conditionally treating comprises:

when the attribute is set and an X is present on an input node to the model of the inverter, evaluating an output node of the model of the inverter to a 0.

21. (Currently Amended) An article having a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising a data structure describing a device model for use in a simulator, the data structure comprising an attribute to signify whether an X on an input node of the device model should be treated as a value other than X during a computerized operation of the simulator ~~simulation~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 21 wherein the attribute is associated with the device model such that the attribute is a single attribute configured to affect [[a]] the simulator's behavior relative to all input nodes of the device model.

23. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 21 wherein the attribute is associated with the input node of the device model such that the attribute is configured to affect [[a]] the simulator's behavior relative to only the input node to which the attribute is associated.

24. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 23 wherein the data structure further comprises a second attribute associated with a second input node of the device model, the second attribute being configured to signify whether an X on the second input node of the device model is to be treated a value other than X during the computerized operation of the simulator ~~simulation~~.

25. (Original) The article of claim 21 wherein the device model represents an inverter, and the device model is configured to be used in a switch-level simulator.